dum to Hindi version of Notification G.S.R 107, dated the 27th May, 1998.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT—1500/98]

Notification of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 12 of the Wakf Act, 1995 a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Notification GSR 593(E), dated the 30th September, 1998 publishing the Central Wakf Council Rules, 1998.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT—1521/98]

Report and Accounts (1997-98) of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98 together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT—1583/98]

RULING BY CHAIR

Special mention made on 23rd July, 1998 on the "Decision of the Madhya Pradesh Government to Hand over Diamond Deposits in Behradin Block in Raipur District to a Mumbai—based Diamond Consortium for Exploration and Exploitation of Diamonds."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members may recall that on 23rd July, 1998 while a Special Mention was being made regarding "decision of the Madhya Pradesh Government to hand over diamond deposits in Behradin Block in Raipur District to a Mumbai-based Diamond Consortium for exploration and exploitation of diamonds", I had suspended the Special Mention when some Members raised the following objections:—

(i) Shri Vayalar Ravi's objection was that the subject matter of the Special Mention, being a State subject, could not be raised in the House.

(ii) Shri Pranab Mukherjee's objections were regarding—

(a) the use of particular expression by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta while addressing the Chair; and

(b) the propriety of any Member making insinuations against a State Government.

I had stated that I would examine the matter and give a Ruling. My Ruling is as follows:

I will first address the objection of Shri Vayalar Ravi. I find that Entry 54 of the Union List, read with Entry 23 of State List, in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution and provision of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 as also available precedents, make amply clear that the Central Government have authority with reference to prospecting and mining, particularly of precious stones. No prospecting or mining lease can be granted by any State Government except with the prior approval of Central Government.

I have also gone through the reply given on 20th July, 1998 to Unstarred Question No. 3627 of Shri Raghavji and Shri Govindram Miri by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel and Mines which inter-alia stated that no prospecting licence or mining lease for precious stones, such as Diamonds, could be granted by State Government except with the previous approval of the Central Govern-